

Riparian, Aquatic Ecosystems, and Fish in the Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest Plan Revision



Forest Plan Collaborative

March 9, 2013

Today's Objectives

- Framework - Our Strategy
- Summary of Draft Components
- Need Your Review and Comments



Westslope Cutthroat Trout – Wounded
Doe Creek, Selway-Bitterroot
Wilderness, August 2004

Review from January – Fish Species Listed Under ESA on the Forests

- Fall Chinook Salmon (Salmon and Clearwater basin)
- Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon (Salmon basin only)
- Steelhead Trout
- Bull Trout



Photo courtesy of Steve Pettit – “A” Run Snake River steelhead trout, December 2010

Aquatic Species of Conservation Concern



- Western Pearlshell Mussel
- Pacific Lamprey
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout
- Interior Redband Trout
- Spring Chinook Salmon (Clearwater basin)
- Amphibians ??
- Aquatic macroinvertebrates??
- Other aquatic mollusks??

PACFISH/INFISH in The New Plan

- Will be replaced with an Aquatic Conservation Strategy (“ACS”).
- The ACS must result in the same or greater protection to riparian and aquatic resources as PACFISH.



Aquatic Conservation Strategy

- Key Watersheds
- All Others
- Key Watersheds - maintain and restore
- In Table “Z”
- Some components speak specifically to Key Watersheds



Desired Conditions

- Riparian
- Aquatic Ecosystems – network of quality habitat in subbasins
- T&E Fish Species
- Aquatic Species of Conservation Concern
- Table “X” – defines desired stream conditions, PACFISH RMOs.



Noble Creek, Big Mallard watershed, July 2011

Objectives

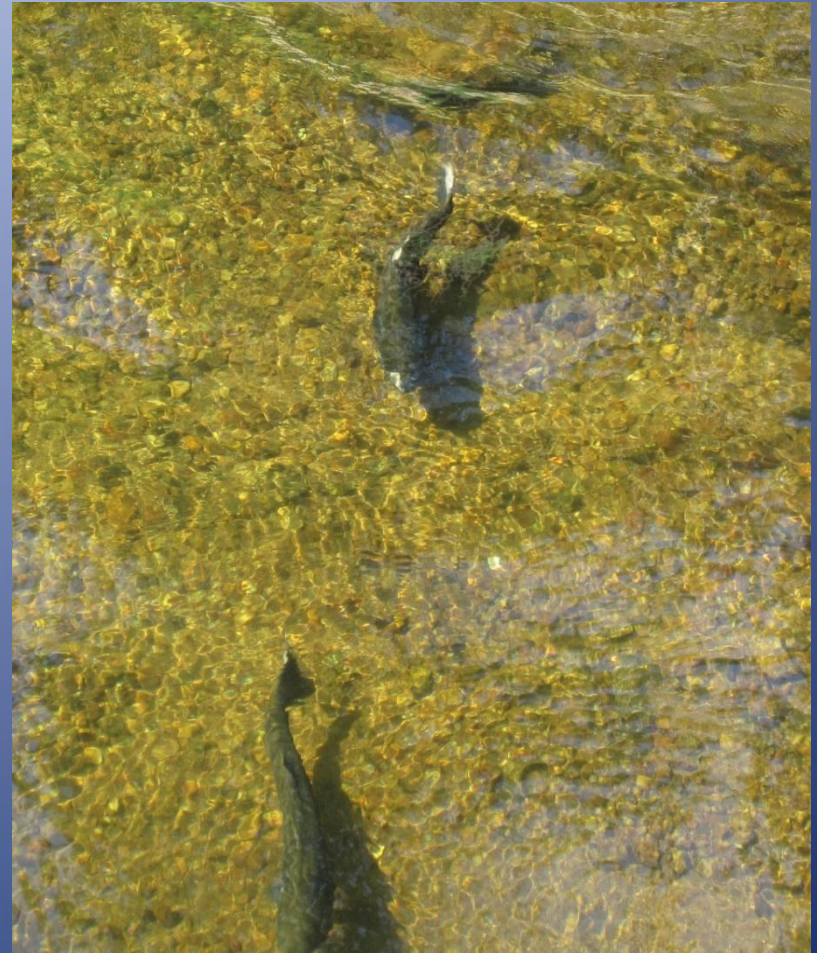
- Stream and lake improvement
- Restoration of roads and trails
- Improvement of floodplains, wetlands, and riparian vegetation



Salmon Redd in Red River, August 2012

Standards

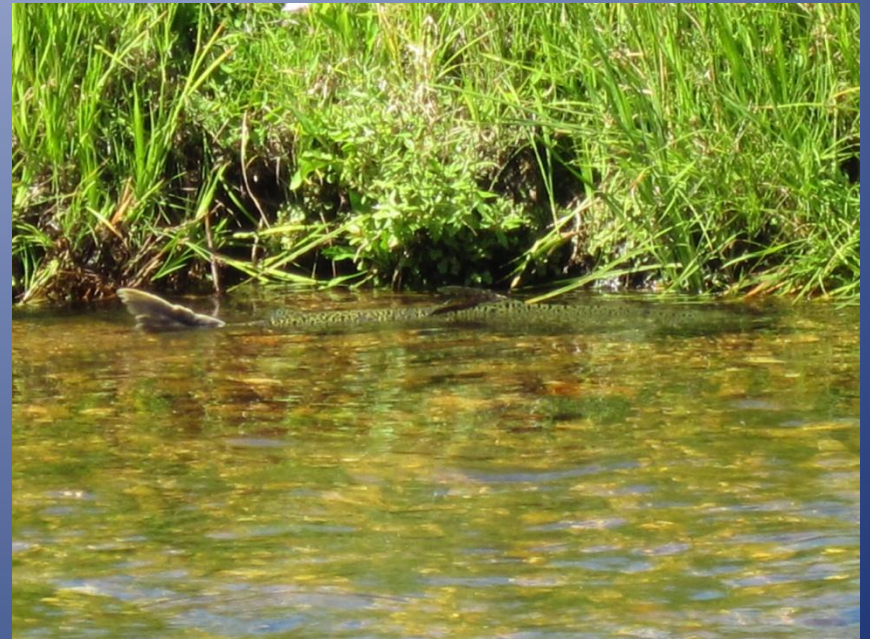
- Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) width modification
- Activities in RCA's - General
- Timber, Silviculture, and Fuels Activities in RCA's



Spawning spring chinook salmon, Red River, August 2010

Guidelines

- Transportation system
- Minerals
- Range
- Fire Suppression
- Recreation and admin. Sites
- Broad-scale project planning



Suitability

- RCAs are not suitable for timber production and are not included in the suitable timber base.
- RCAs are suitable for timber harvest for purposes other than timber production.
- RCAs generally unsuitable for: new facilities, new designated motorized routes, waste and disposal areas

Summary

- Aquatic Conservation Strategy to Replace PACFISH/INFISH
- Watersheds on Forests categorized either as “Key” or others
- Riparian, Aquatic Ecosystems, T&E fish, and aquatic SCC components combined in 1 document for your review.



Bear Creek (Selway River) July 2003

Questions?



Photo courtesy of Steve Pettit – Snake River Fall Chinook Salmon, October 2010